Annual Report
2001/2002

Activities of the Prince Edward Island
Advisory Council on the Status of Women

April 1, 2001 to March 31, 2002

Clinton, PEI
Computer scan of chalk pastel by Island artist and current ACSW member, Joan Savage of Summerside PEI.

Prince Edward Island
CANADA

Advisory Council on the Status of Women

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June 2003

Honourable Pat Mella
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women
PO Box 2000
Charlottetown, PEI C1A 7N8

Dear Honourable Pat Mella,

I am pleased to present you with the 2001/2002 Annual Report of the Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women.

The Annual Report contains a summary of Council's activities, publications, highlights of recommendations and audited financial statements.

Sincerely,

Patricia Roy

Patricia Roy
Chairperson

105-06705/

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Chairperson's Message

The PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women is dedicated to equality and supports women's full and active participation in social, legal, cultural, economic, political, and spiritual spheres of life.

The Advisory Council believes that women's contributions to social, political, legal, cultural and economic life must be valued and celebrated. We work towards this belief in a number of ways. The Advisory Council sponsors annual events that keep women's contributions and issues in the public view, such as International Women's Day Equality Recognition Awards, and the Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence. Through our regular meetings with government, participation on committees and working groups, as well as our Activities Update newsletter, we strive to maintain a positive profile for women's equality. The Council continues to work at increasing the awareness of how gender analysis impacts on programs, policies and legislation.

While we can celebrate the fact that many girls and women of PEI face fewer barriers to their full and active participation in Island society, equality concerns do exist for others and it is for them that we work towards our mandate. As a community agency dedicated to equality, we know that we must be vigilant and build upon successes.

This past year has been one of profound grief in the wake of the tragic deaths of two Island women. During this time, the Advisory Council has worked with the community in creating awareness and education surrounding the issue of family violence. The importance of this issue was reflected in many ways in the work carried out by the Advisory Council working closely with the community and other groups. Our Annual Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence became a visual symbol of grief as well as hope for women and children to live safely in PEI. The Advisory Council also joined with community organizations and the Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention to give a voice to Islanders concerns via community consultations. The result of these was a five-year strategy.

The Advisory Council released a policy guide calling for changes to The *Family Law Act*. These were some of the highlights of the Advisory Council's work in bringing its vision of a society to reality, one that provides respect and equality of opportunity for all people.

We are fortunate to have strong voices of Island women represented through our Council members, who join us from across PEI. They bring a wealth of experience and skills and represent the Council proudly in their communities. We have chosen to profile these women in this report. They are your community's link to the Advisory Council.

This Annual Report reflects a summary of events and activities of the Council. Please do not hesitate to contact us at the Council office at any time for more detailed information or copies of our publications.

Sincerely,

Patricia Roy – Chairperson

Patricia Roy – Chairperson (April 2000 – present)
Council term: January 27,1998 to January 27, 2003)

Patricia has served as a Council member since January 1998 and as Chairperson since April 2000. She is a freelance writer and journalist with the Journal Pioneer in Summerside and the mother of five children. Patricia is bilingual and has worked as a nurse, homemaker, farmer, entrepreneur, and artisan before becoming a journalist. She serves on the Executive of l'Association des Acadiennes et Francophones de I'L.-P-E, and is an executive member of the Summerside Y's Service Club. Patricia is also currently serving as a committee member of the East Prince Committee on Family Violence and the PEI Women's Coalition, a family legal aid justice committee. She resides in Enmore.

About the Council

The Advisory Council began in 1975 as an Order-In-Council. In 1988 the Council received full legislative standing with the *PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women Act.* The PEI ACSW Act establishes the size of the Council; the number of Council meetings (currently four meetings per year); the reporting structure between the Chairperson and Minister Responsible; and, the mandate to monitor status of women issues, advise the provincial government and develop public awareness about issues affecting women.

- Serves as a community arm to the provincial government and acts as a liaison and advisor regarding issues identified by communities and individual women in PEI
- Informs the Minister Responsible on the Status of Women through monthly meetings and regular correspondence about events and issues concerning women's equality
- Conducts research and offers recommendations to government departments, committees, royal commissions, special task forces and community consultations
- Recommends policy programs and legislation which promote equality of opportunity
- Initiates and participates in projects of benefit to Island women with women's groups, committees, and government departments
- Initiates and/or participates in speaking engagements, conferences, media conferences and other public education activities
- Responds to enquiries from individuals, organizations and government
- Provides leadership that educates and stimulates public awareness about issues identified by community and government regarding the status of women
- Meets with other provincial/territorial Advisory Councils

The Council is an arm's length advisory agency and achieves its mandate through its unique relationship with both government and the community. Over the years, the Council has developed a policy of commitment toward feminist process in conducting its affairs and in problem resolution.

The Council is a nine-member volunteer Board. The Chairperson receives honouraria for five days per month and members receive honouraria on Council meeting days.

To promote continuity, Executive Council appoints the Chairperson from existing members. For other appointments, the Council provides the Minister Responsible with the names of Island women who have demonstrated a commitment to women's equality. Executive Council then makes the appointments, based on the recommendations of the Minister Responsible.

Council business is directed and determined mainly at council meetings four times per year. In 2001-02 the meetings were:

- 71st meeting - June 2001
- 72nd meeting - September 2001
- 73rd meeting - January 2002
- 74th meeting - March 2002

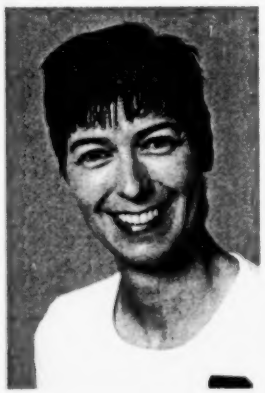
In addition to four full council meetings each year, members of the Council met by phone and in person.

Members are appointed by the Executive Council and usually represent regional, cultural and ethnic diversity (i. e. youth, lesbian, Aboriginal women, Francophone women, women of colour, disabled women). Council members are appointed for two and three-year terms.

Council Members

Inge Blackett - Vice Chairperson (April 5, 2000 – present)
Council term: January 27, 1998 - January 27, 2003

Inge is an experienced chef and food services manager, trained in culinary arts and management, as well as hospital food management. She was an active community member in Souris serving in many volunteer capacities at the Souris Hospital. She is a dedicated volunteer with the Prince Edward Home, is very active in the Jewish community and other community groups. Inge resides in Stratford.



Maxine Ellis – Treasurer
Council term: January 27, 1998 - November 9, 2003

Maxine is a Financial Services Officer/Investment Specialist employed at Central Credit Union Limited in O'Leary. She volunteers with various community organizations including charities, non-profit organizations, sports events and church-related activities. Maxine lives in West Cape with her husband and son.

Valerie Smallman – Member
Council term: September 29, 1998 - September 29, 2003

Valerie is coordinator of West Prince Transition and Support Service for women and their children who are experiencing difficulties in their relationships due to abuse. She has been a member of Partners for Prevention, Provincial Child Sexual Abuse Committees, and the West Prince Community Development Corporation. She is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the West Prince Rainbow Residence, which provides safe and supportive housing for women and their children who can no longer stay in their own homes due to abuse. She is an active community member with groups such as KIDS West prenatal nutrition program and the Provincial Crime Prevention Committee.

Darlene Peters – Member
Council term: November 9, 1999 - November 9, 2002

Darlene lives and works in Souris where she partners with her husband in the fishing business. As a mother of three children, Darlene has been active in a number of community and volunteer organizations including Eastern Kings Tourism, the IWK/Grace Telethon and Eastern Venture/Community Futures.

Jackie MacNeill Doiron – Member
Council term: November 9, 1999 - November 9, 2002

A graduate of UPEI, Jackie works at the Summerside Taxation Centre and commutes daily from her home in Charlottetown. As an active volunteer fund raiser for projects such as the Soggy Reid Telethon and the Charlottetown and area food drive, Jackie is strongly committed to her community.

Joan Savage – Member
Council term: April 4, 2000 - April 4, 2003

Joan is the Nurse Manager of Public Health Nursing with the East Prince Health Authority at the Summerside Health Centre. Joan has been presenting health information to women across the Island for over 20 years through Holland College, East Prince Women's Information Centre and the public health system. She is also actively involved in the Well Women's Health Coalition that provides a province-wide campaign for the prevention of breast and cervical cancer. She lives with her family in Summerside.

Margaret Koren – Member
Council term: October 10, 2000 - October 10, 2003

Margaret is a graduate of the University of New Brunswick Law School, Class of 1999 and was called to the Bar in July, 2000. She is currently employed with the Provincial Department of Agriculture. Margaret has served on the board of Carousel Family Resource Centre in Montague and participated in the original CAPC meetings to establish Family Resource Centres on PEI. As a single mother of two children, Margaret has also volunteered with Anderson House, the PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada, and the PEI Law Society. Margaret lives with her family in Belle River.

Wendy MacLaren – Member
Council term: October 10, 2000 - October 10, 2003

Wendy is a Certified Early Childhood Educator and works with the Morell Early Childhood Development Centre. She has an extensive background working with youth as a teacher assistant, substitute teacher, special needs assistant, and workshop facilitator before receiving her certification in early childhood education. Active in her community, Wendy has volunteered with Girl Guides, minor sports, home & school and 4-H. Wendy lives in Morell with her family.

Council Staff

The Council has one full-time and three part-time staff.

Director, Lisa Murphy joined Council staff in May 1990. As of May 2001, Lisa continues her leave of absence from the Advisory Council until May 2002.

Administrative Assistant, Becky Tramley works part-time and joined Council in October 1986.

Acting Director, Heidi Rankin joined Council staff in April 1997 as the Communications Coordinator. Heidi is serving as Director in Lisa's absence.

Communications Coordinator, Cheryl J. Dalziel joined the staff in November 2000 and works part-time.

Researcher/Policy Analyst, Patricia MacAulay joined the staff in November 2000 and works part-time

Betty Belaire works on a contract basis at the Council as a part-time resource support.

Sandy Kowalik works on a contract basis at the Council as project support and coordinator.

Council Business

Members and staff carry out the work of Council in several ways:

- **Information Service**
- **Annual Events**
- **Networking**
- **Publications and Research**
- **Consultation and Media**
- **Recommendations and Submissions to Government**
- **Public Speaking**
- **Committees, and**
- **Regular Meetings with the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women**

Information Service

The Advisory Council responds to enquiries from individuals and groups, government, and the media on a variety of questions and issues. The enquiries range from requests for documented or statistical information to referrals, crisis calls, and calls for advocacy support. People make enquiries in person, by correspondence, telephone, or email. Requests for information in crisis or advocacy situations are often complex calls from women who have tried to get information or service without success. The Advisory Council does not advocate for individual women, however it offers support with information, referrals, and at times interventions with formal systems. Concerns raised by individual women often lead to policy development by Council to deal with the underlying systemic discrimination.

Annual Events

The Council sponsors annual events that help to keep women's contributions and issues in the public view.

International Women's Day (IWD) 2002 EQUALITY Recognition Awards

Council hosted the 10th Annual IWD Awards on March 8 at the Arts Guild in Charlottetown. The highlight of the event was the presentation of the awards to women and organizations who have worked to improve the lives of Island women. Recipients of the EQUALITY Recognition Awards for 2002 were:

Individual Award presented to Ann Sherman for her commitment to peace, social justice and equality. Ann is a talented and generous advocate who supports Island women in countless ways. As the Executive Director of the Community Legal Information Association, she is actively involving women's equality and justice issues.

Group Award presented to the La Voix acadienne newspaper that successfully maintained a French language presence in the Island media. This weekly newspaper has been a voice for many social issues, including family violence and crime prevention.

Employer Award presented to Maritime Electric Company Limited for their thoughtful approach to gender issues, continually developing new initiatives to include and encourage women. The company supported eight women in UPEI's Management Development Program for Women, is establishing a bursary/employment program for a woman studying electrical engineering, has adopted an "Alternative Hours of Work" policy, is working on a "Respectful Workplace" policy, and has removed male-oriented language from its Collective Agreement.

Employer Award also went to the City of Charlottetown for the action that they took on family violence prevention. In collaboration with community groups, the City developed and delivered mandatory family violence awareness training programs to all City employees, with more specialized training offered to front-line and supervisory employees. The Mayor and City Council served as role models by being the first group to undertake this training.

Lifetime Achievement Award presented to Maria Bernard, who inspires Acadian and Francophone women. Over the years, she has devoted her talents to local, provincial, and national groups that support women. As a teacher and innovator, Maria has developed unique women-centered programs focused on achieving economic security.

Special Recognition: Family Violence Prevention Award presented to Marcella Bradley, who believes that no human being should live in fear of abuse. Following the death of yet another Island woman at the hands of her partner, Marcella became an activist organizing demonstrations, circulating petitions, speaking to crowds, and meeting with political leaders.

Purple Ribbon Campaign

December 6th is the National Day of Remembrance and Action, which commemorates the murder of 14 female engineering students in Montreal in 1989. The Council's 10th Purple Ribbon Campaign, with the support of the Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention and council staff and volunteers distributed over twenty thousand purple ribbons on cards with information and statistics about family violence on PEI. Islanders are encouraged to wear the purple ribbon on or near December 6th to remember all women who are victims of violence. It was a tragic year of violence on Prince Edward Island, with two women losing their lives. Purple ribbons were worn by many year round to raise awareness of the violence against women occurring in our Island communities. Both French and English cards and ribbons were distributed to the civil service, junior and senior high schools, Women's Institute members, Island women's groups, police, RCMP, and individuals. The 2001 Purple Ribbon Campaign saw the addition of a large wooden purple ribbon to the outside of Charlottetown's City Hall. This ribbon will be placed on City Hall each year during the Annual Purple Ribbon Campaign and will remain there until after Family Violence Prevention Week in February.

Advisory Council Post-Secondary Education Bursary

Each year the Council awards bursaries to two women to help them continue their studies. The Advisory Council's annual bursaries were awarded this year to Nohad Haddad of Holland College and Andrea Gay of the University of Prince Edward Island.

Advisory Council Engineering Bursary

Bursary is awarded to a woman entering third-year engineering at UPEI in recognition and support of women pursuing non-traditional fields. The bursary was established in 1995 by the Government of PEI on the Twentieth Anniversary of the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women. The bursary supports the Council's work to encourage young women to choose careers in math and science fields and also pays tribute to the fourteen women engineering students who were murdered at L'Ecole Polytechnique in 1989. This year's bursary was presented to Guenna McCarthy.

PUBLICATIONS

The Council releases regular and special publications, and conducts research on issues affecting women's equality.

Activities Update

This publication keeps people informed about Council news and business, current issues important to the status of women, and community notices. Activities Update is sent to more than 600 people or groups. During 2001/2002, the newsletter was published two times.

International Women's Day Publications

The Advisory Council produced two full color publications featuring the 2001 and 2002 winners of the EQUALITY Recognition Awards.

Moving On

Moving On - A Practical Guide for Women Leaving a Relationship was released in conjunction with the *Family Law Policy Guide*. *Moving On* provides plain language information about the practicalities of leaving a long-term relationship. The community itself established the need for this resource. Many of the calls staff and Council members receive are about family law issues, in general, and the separation process, in particular. The booklet is free and will be distributed widely.

Addiction Services for Women Policy Guide

The Advisory Council released its first policy guide, *Addiction Services for Women*, at a press conference in Mill River during the June Advisory Council meeting. Chairperson Patricia Roy hosted the event that included Anne Gillis, well-known advocate for women experiencing addictions in their lives. The Advisory Council staff will continue to monitor this issue and the newly formulated Women's Mobile Treatment Program for Women to ensure that the needs of Island women are met.

Family Law Policy Guide

The Advisory Council released its *Family Law Policy Guide* in conjunction with its February Advisory Council meeting. Joining the Advisory Council for the release was PEI Attorney General, Honourable Jeff Lantz, along with various people who contributed to the research and consultation process. Chairperson Patricia Roy hosted the event, which included a panel composed of Ann Sherman representing the Community Legal Information Association; Sandy Kowalik, who shared her personal experiences with the inequities involved in ending a common-law relationship; and Janet MacLeod, who described her perspective on dealing with the family court system as a survivor of family violence. Director Heidi Rankin also launched the Advisory Council's newest publication, *Moving On - A Practical Guide for Women Leaving a Relationship*.

Health Policy Guide

The Advisory Council has prepared a draft policy guide which focuses on women's unique role in health care and on their particular service requirements. The Council plans to use this document as background for a submission to the Royal Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada.

Meetings, Events, & Partnerships

Council members and staff attend many meetings and consultations representing the Advisory Council each year. Highlights of Meetings, Events and Partnerships:

Meetings:

- Gary MacDougall, Editor of the Guardian to request space for a column
- Ann Sherman, CLIA for information exchange
- Tony Dolan, Federal Public Service re: employment application process
- Organized community consultation on women's issues by request from Shawn Murphy, MP
- Hon. Jeff Lantz, Attorney General regarding sentencing for spousal abuse offenders
- Hon. Patricia Mella, Minister Responsible for the Status of Women regarding family violence initiatives
- Premier's staff regarding issue of family violence
- Attorney General Lantz and Community Coalition on family violence prevention
- City of Charlottetown Human Resource staff, CAO, Charlottetown Police Chief and Deputy Chief, Victim Services, Provincial Family Violence Consultant, and THA to plan for training of police, city employees, and service providers
- Senator Callbeck's staff regarding Family Violence Prevention and Purple Ribbon Campaign
- Senator Callbeck for information sharing following Ottawa meetings
- Focus group for needs assessment of Rape Crisis services
- Consultations with Clifford Lee, City of Charlottetown Councillor regarding Family Violence Resolution

- Presented submission on Custody and Access issues at Charlottetown consultations
- East Prince Committee on Family Violence
- Atlantic Women's Justice Caucus Meeting in Moncton

Events:

- Women's Coalition Legal Aid and Social Justice forum
- Canadian Federation of Francophone Women Forum in Moncton, NB
- Women's Institute Provincial Convention
- Two National Meetings of the Provincial/Territorial Advisory Councils in Winnipeg and Ottawa
- AIDS PEI focus group on gender, lesbian, bisexual and transsexual issues for youth in PEI
- First Annual Memorial Walk for Victims of Violence organized by Marcella Bradley
- Eating Disorders Workshop in Summerside
- Workshop on supports for female offenders
- Health and Social Services Consultations on the PEI Health Strategic Plan
- Gathering Forces - Feminist Health Workshop in Halifax
- Health Information Resource Centre location launch at Women's Network PEI
- Justice Options for Women Workshop
- Workshop with Dr. Peter Jaffe on Children who Witness or Are Victims of Violence
- Woman Abuse and the PEI Justice System Session
- Press conference for new pap screening clinic in Cornwall
- Community Consultations on Family Violence Prevention
- Press Conference by Premier announcing Family Violence Community Consultations
- Charlottetown City Counsellors Family Violence Prevention training
- UPEI Memorial service in commemoration of Montreal Massacre
- Legal Aid Conference
- Weekly vigils at the Summerside and Charlottetown courthouses

- DES Action Canada workshop on Hormonal Pollution: Protecting our Long-term Health, Protecting the Environment
- Participated in CBC phone-in show on family violence
- Sponsored *Take Your Child to Work Day* program welcoming grade 10 Summerside student

Partnerships:

- Family Violence Community Consultation Planning Committee
- Women's Network PEI project on Sexual and Reproductive Health for Youth
- Literacy Alliance project *Your Welfare Rights and Responsibilities in PEI: A Plain Language Guide*
- High Risk Offenders Review Committee
- Woman Abuse Protocol Phase 3
- HIV/AIDS and Pregnancy Project
- Diversity in Education Standing Committee
- Victim Services Advisory committee
- Health Research Program Review Committee

Policy Issues

Addiction Services for Women Policy Guide

The Advisory Council's first policy guide focuses on service needs for women with addictions. It provides background, analysis and recommendations for new policy/program directions, and includes input from the community, professionals, and Council members. The Advisory Council concluded that inequity exists because women are being asked to fit themselves into addiction programs designed for men. Women must be able to access appropriate programs that adopt a holistic, woman-centered philosophy.

The Advisory Council recommended that the Province of PEI take these actions:

- Appoint to the Provincial Advisory Committee for Addiction Services at least one woman who has experience addiction and a recovery process
- Implement recommendations from the *Addiction Services Review*, 1997 regarding the unique needs of women: have a provincial coordinator to systematically address the barriers that prevent women with addictions from seeking help; and develop a partnership with Public Health Nursing to address the issues associated with pregnant women and substance abuse
- Adopt a provincial program philosophy that recognizes the particular needs of women and their holistic treatment requirements
- Adopt a provincial program philosophy that recognizes the particular needs of women and their holistic treatment requirements
- Offer a full continuum of services for women in each of the five health regions that includes group programs, individual counselling, drop-in counselling, and childcare that is designed to help children manage during the parent's recovery

- Ensure access to women counsellors and women-only therapy groups at all service delivery points
- Provide programming that addresses self-esteem building and recovery from abuse trauma at all service points
- Address potential language, cultural, or disability-related barriers
- Provide staff training on new programming approaches
- Continuously evaluate the programming in the regions, at the Provincial Addictions Centre, and at Lacey House
- Market specialized women's programs in ways that attract women and make them feel comfortable about accessing the service
- Use a portion of revenue from gambling for addiction prevention and treatment
- Conduct public education programs about women and addictions that actively address negative social stigmas regarding women's addictions

Custody and Access

The Advisory Council presented their submission to the national consultations on the issue of custody and access. The submission built on the recommendations made in the Advisory Council's presentation to similar hearings in PEI in 1998. The submission urged decision makers to take this opportunity to reform the federal law and the related provincial services to reflect the reality that women are still the primary caretakers of children, therefore children's interests cannot be separated from women's primary interests - safety and economic security.

Family Violence Prevention

The Advisory Council organized and participated in a number of family violence prevention initiatives:

- Ad hoc Community Coalition organizing vigils and letter campaign
- Community Consultations Planning Committee
- Planning Committee for City of Charlottetown Family Violence Training
- Woman Abuse Protocols Advisory Committee
- Justice Options for Women Who Are Victims of Violence Advisory Committee
- City of Charlottetown Resolution on Family Violence

Six Community Consultations on Family Violence Prevention were held across PEI in the fall of 2001, under the direction of the Premier. The Advisory Council was involved in the planning and implementation of the consultations and continues to be involved in the final report preparation and five-year action plan for the Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention. Advisory Council members and staff participated in many of the forums.

Pensions

The Advisory Council wrote to Hon. Jane Stewart, Federal Minister of Human Resources Development Canada, regarding the operation of the Canada Pension Plan (CPP). It acknowledged the improvements made by Human Resources Development Canada to work towards equality within the pension system, but there is still much more to be done. The Advisory Council called for further reform that will enable homemakers and caregivers to receive a pension that truly reflects the value of the work that they do. Women are likely to do the work in the home and to also provide care for family members. Their work is absolutely vital for our economy and for society as a whole. It is a grave injustice that, in taking on this necessary work, women can face a lifetime of economic inequality and insecurity.

Unpaid Work

The Advisory Council has started working on its next policy guide that is focused on *Unpaid Work*. As part of the process, Council members will be organizing Unpaid Work Workshops in their communities facilitated by Advisory Council staff. These workshops will help inform women about the issue as well as contribute to the consultation process for the policy guide.

Strategic Plan for the PEI Health and Social Services System, 2001~2005

In June, the Advisory Council participated in the provincial health strategy consultation process. In a written submission to the Minister Responsible Jamie Ballem, the Advisory Council provided a gender analysis of the strategic document. Council noted that, although the provincial Health and Social Services department recognizes gender as one of the World Health Organization's health determinants, it was given no consideration in the strategic document. The written submission contained this missing analysis, including how it could impact women, who are the most frequent consumers of health care services and the vast majority of health care workers on the Island.

Workplace Harassment

The Advisory Council researched the communication and implementation of the Province's workplace harassment policy. A letter was sent to the Public Service Commission that outlined a case where a new employee did not receive information regarding the workplace harassment policy nor did it appear that her immediate supervisors had the required education to use the policy. Council suggested a review of strategies around communicating and utilizing the policy. The Commission replied that they were satisfied with their work in this area. Council continues to have concerns, believing that the case in question is not likely an isolated incident.

Education and Training Programs for Teen Parents

Recommendations were made to the Minister of Education, Hon. Jeff Lantz regarding sustainability of support programs for teen moms. Five independent regional programs share similar goals and objectives, and are instrumental in meeting the individual needs of teen parents and supporting their continued education.

The Advisory Council recommended that:

- The Department of Education and Health & Social Services partner to support these programs through a Provincial Coordinator
- Childcare and transportation allowances are offered to support teen parents to participate in such programs
- Provincial employment and income support programs work with HRDC to provide a continuum of employment programs and eliminate gaps in services
- Flexible policies offer help to teen parents regardless of age, sex or location

Gender Analysis

The Advisory Council carefully examines programs and policies that both the provincial and federal government put in place to determine the impact these will have on women on PEI. Gender-based analysis takes into consideration social and economic differences between women and men at every stage of policy development as well as the policy outcome. It looks at the potential differential impacts of policies, programs and legislation on women and men and whether the results are equitable for women, men, boys and girls. The Advisory Council continues to advocate for Gender-Based Analysis to be included in all work provincially and federally.

Access to Justice

The Advisory Council joined with other Advisory Councils and women's organizations from the region to form the Atlantic Women's Justice Caucus. During the summer, Caucus members met in Moncton for a roundtable on justice issues of particular concern to women, and determined that coordinated regional action would help Atlantic Canadian women achieve equity within their justice systems. Four issue areas were chosen: violence against women, family legal aid, custody and access, and alternative dispute resolution. The group has prepared communication and lobbying strategies so that regional women's organizations can contribute to provincial and federal justice reforms with unity and consistency.

Family Law Policy Guide

The Advisory Council released its *Family Law Policy Guide* at a Press Conference in February 2002. Since the Advisory Council was formed in 1975, family law has remained the number one issue raised by Island women. Although family law reform has given women increased support for their choices, it is still extremely difficult for women to end relationships while dealing with inequitable laws and programs. Women do not have equal access to legal services. They also face trends towards mediated settlements and joint custody awards that may not be in their best interests.

The PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women recommends that the Province of PEI take these actions:

- Amend the *Family Law Act*. Include people of the same sex in the definition of "spouse." Apply all aspects of the law equally to all spouses, including the division of property for common-law spouses. Provide a vehicle for overriding domestic contracts in specified circumstances. Establish special provisions and procedures for situations involving family violence.
- Amend the *Probate Act* to ensure that it reflects the principle of economic partnership as established in the *Family Law Act*.
- Create legislation that established rigorous standards for the mediation profession.

- Conduct a review of the *Maintenance Enforcement Program* to assess and recommend program resources and service improvements.
- Revise the Family Support Orders Program so that women with a history of abuse from the non-supporting former partner can opt of the program without incurring financial penalties.
- Work with the federal government so that, if it amends the *Divorce Act*, the legislation will include a range of custody options with no presumption for any of them except in cases of family violence where special provisions and procedures should apply.
- Work with the federal government to initiate a nationally standardized, cost-shared family legal aid program that is available to all income-eligible applicants who require legal representation in matters of property division, child/spousal support, and custody arrangements.
- Establish an agency as a first point of entry for women, men and children upon the breakdown of the family unit to provide information, assessment and referrals for legal and non-legal professional services. Some non-legal services could include distributing self-help kits and enabling supervised custody, along with providing voluntary counseling, mediation, and parenting programs.
- Provide training to agency staff, mediators, lawyers, and judges about the realities of family violence and its after effects.
- Following changes in legislation or service provision, conduct a comprehensive communications campaign to inform the public regarding the real, practical effects on their partnerships and families.

AUDITOR GENERAL

CHARLOTTETOWN
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of the
Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women

I have audited the balance sheet of the Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women as at March 31, 2002 and the statements of revenues, expenditures and equity and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Council's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. These standards require that I plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Council as at March 31, 2002 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Allan Murphy, CA

J. Wayne Murphy, FCA
Auditor General

Charlottetown, P.E.I.
May 16, 2002

STATEMENT 1

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

BALANCE SHEET

MARCH 31, 2002

	2002	2001
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash	$6,663	$4,128
Accounts receivable	614	1,073
Prepaid expenses	630	579
	$7,907	$5,780
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable	$6,135	$5,371
Surplus	872	409
	$7,907	$5,780

(The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.)

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Chairperson: Patricia Roy

Member:

STATEMENT 2

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND EQUITY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2002

	2002	2001
Revenues		
Provincial appropriation - Note 2	$148,800	$148,800
Miscellaneous revenues	190	190
	148,990	148,990
Expenditures		
Administration	4,685	4,113
Bursary	500	500
Conferences	2,616	1,873
Equipment leases - Notes 1(b) and 3	3,030	2,615
Equipment purchases - Note 1(d)	2,046	8,484
Honoraria	11,445	11,484
Materials and supplies	3,650	4,910
Program expenses	6,743	7,176
Salaries and benefits	109,966	100,004
Travel - In Province	4,838	4,271
	148,527	148,530
Net income for the year	463	360
Surplus, beginning of year	409	49
Surplus, end of year	$ 872	$ 409

(The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.)

STATEMENT 3

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2002

	2002	2001
Cash Flows From Operating Activities		
Cash received from Province of PEI for operations	$148,800	$148,800
Cash received from miscellaneous revenues	190	190
Cash paid for salaries and benefits	(109,990)	(106,094)
Cash paid for materials and services	(37,475)	(45,640)
Net increase (decrease) in cash	1,525	(744)
Cash, beginning of year	4,128	4,872
Cash, end of year	$ 5,653	$ 4,128

(The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.)

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MARCH 31, 2002

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

These statements were prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles for Not-For-Profit organizations. Accordingly:

(a) Capital assets are expensed when purchased. The Council spent $2,646 (2001 - $8,484) on office and computer equipment during the year.

(b) Leases are treated as operating leases and lease costs are expensed as they become due.

2. Provincial Appropriation

The Provincial Appropriation amount of $148,800 (2001 - $148,800) includes an operating grant of $144,300 (2001 - $144,300) and other provincial grants totalling $4,500 (2001 - $1,500).

3. Equipment Lease

A photocopier is leased until July 31, 2006 and the total lease payments are $2,630 annually.

PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women Act

CHAPTER A-6

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN ACT

Definitions

1. In this Act

Minister

(a) "Minister" means the Minister responsible for the status of women as designated by the Executive Council;

Council

(b) "Council" means the Council established under section 2. 1988, c.7, s.1.

Council

2. There is established an Advisory Council on the Status of Women. 1988, c.7, s.2.

Functions

3. The Council shall

(a) develop public awareness of the issues affecting the status of women;

(b) promote a change in attitudes within the community in order that women may enjoy an equality of opportunity;

(c) encourage discussion and expression of opinion by Island residents on issues affecting the status of women;

(d) advise the Minister with respect to such issues as the Minister may refer to the Council for consideration;

(e) review policies and legislation affecting women and report its findings to the relevant governmental departments or agencies;

(f) provide assistance to the Minister in promoting changes to ensure the attainment of equality objectives of women; and

(g) provide assistance, as the Council deems appropriate, to organizations and groups whose objectives promote the equality of women. 1988, c.7, s.3.

Powers

4. The Council may

(a) receive and hear submissions and suggestions from individuals and groups concerning the status of women;

(b) research matters relating to the status of women and suggest research areas in relation thereto that may be studied by any interested person;

(c) recommend and participate in programs concerning the status of women;

(d) recommend legislation, policies and practices to promote equality of opportunity for women and to improve the status of women;

(e) publish such reports, studies and recommendations as the Council feels advisable; and

(f) present reports to the Minister for presentation to the Legislative Assembly. 1988, c.7, s.4.

Composition

5. (1) The Council shall consist of nine members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

Term of office

(2) The members of the Council shall be appointed for a term of not less than two and not more than three years.

Reappointment

(3) A member is eligible for reappointment for a second term of not less than one and not more than two years.

Idem

(4) Anyone who has served on the Council for a period of four years or more is ineligible for reappointment.

Time for appointment

(5) Within three months of the expiry of a term of office of a member, the Lieutenant Governor in Council shall appoint or reappoint a member as the case may be. 1988, c.7, s.5.

Meetings

6. (1) The Council shall hold at least four meetings in each year.

Location

(2) Meetings of the Council may be held anywhere in the province. 1988, c.7, s.6.

Chairperson

7. (1) The Lieutenant Governor in Council shall appoint a chairperson and a vice-chairperson from the members of the Council.

Functions

(2) The chairperson is the chief executive officer of the Council and shall direct the activities of the Council and co-ordinate its work.

Vice-chairperson

(3) The vice-chairperson shall act where the chairperson is unable to act by reason of absence or inability. 1988, c.7, s.7.

Remuneration

8. Members of the Council shall serve without remuneration other than

(a) such remuneration for attendance at each meeting of the Council as may be prescribed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council; and

(b) reimbursement for expenses necessarily incurred by a member in connection with the work of the Council. 1988, c.7, s.8.

Budget

9. Each year, on or before September 30, the Council shall submit to the Minister an estimate of the money required for the operation of the Council during the next fiscal year, setting forth the estimated revenue and expenditure in such detail and in such form as the Minister may require. 1988, c.7, s.9.

Audit

10. The accounts of the Council shall be audited from time to time by the Auditor General whose report shall be included in the annual report of the Council. 1988, c.7, s.10.

11. (1) The Council shall, within three months after the end of each fiscal year, submit to the Minister an annual report which shall contain Annual report

(a) a report of all meetings conducted by the Council during the year;

(b) a report of the findings, conclusions and recommendations made by the Council to the Minister during the year.

(2) The Minister shall, within one month of the receipt of the report, present the report of the Council to the Legislative Assembly if the Assembly is then in session and, if it is not, then within one month after the commencement of the next ensuing session. 1988, c.7, s.11. Minister to submit report to Legislative Assembly

12. The Council may employ or engage such persons as it considers necessary to carry out its functions. 1988, c.7, s.12. Staff

13. The Council may make bylaws for its internal management. 1988, c.7, s.13. Bylaws

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Advisory Council on the Status of
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